



# CalRecycle Packaging Workshop

November 13, 2014

*Welcome, please take this opportunity to  
sit with folks you would like to meet.*

*We will begin shortly.*

*Thank you!*





# For remote participants:

- Please communicate all questions, comments, or technical issues via e-mail to: [CoastalRm@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:CoastalRm@calepa.ca.gov)
- Please DO NOT use the webinar 'chat' function
- You can also access a live video stream (webcast) at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Broadcast/>



# Opening Remarks

Jared Blumenfeld, Administrator  
US EPA Region 9



Caroll Mortensen, Director  
CalRecycle







# **Background & Overview of Policy Approaches**

Cynthia Dunn, Senior Environmental Scientist



# Today I'll cover:

- 75% Goal & Cross-Media Impacts
- Functions of Packaging & Trends that Affect Recovery
- Packaging in California's Disposal Stream
- The CA Landscape: Existing Infrastructure & Policies
- Proposed Definition & Scope
- Priority Packaging Product Selection
- Potential Policy Approaches



## **75% Goal (AB 341)**

- 75% source reduction, recycling, or composting by 2020
- Approximately 22 million ton reduction to meet goal
- Required implementation of mandatory commercial recycling by July 2012



# Cross-Media Impacts

- GHG emissions
  - 2014 Scoping Plan Update, Waste Sector
- Trash-related water impacts
  - Trash Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
  - Marine debris





# Functions of Packaging

- Contains and protects the product
- Protects the consumer (e.g., safety seals, “child-proof” closures)
- Conveys information, including complying with legislative/regulatory requirements
- Saves consumers \$ (e.g., preventing food loss, extending shelf-life)





# Trends in Packaging that Affect Recovery

- Light-weighting
- Optimizing product-to-package ratio
- Shift from rigid to flexible packaging
- Multi-material/laminates



# Trends in Packaging that Affect Recovery

Can present a dilemma at end-of-use when:

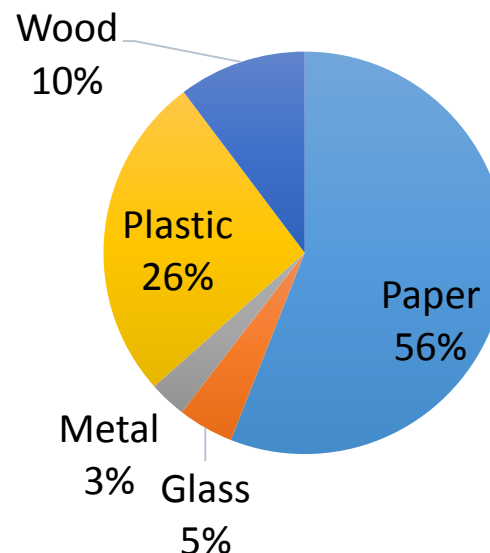
- Cannot be recycled
- Contaminates the recycling stream
- Lacks adequate end markets
- Requires additional and/or specialized processing equipment
- Requires additional end-of-life energy inputs
- Escapes into the environment



# Packaging in California's Disposal Stream

- 1/4 of total materials disposed
- Most prominent material types:  
Paper – 5 million tons  
Plastic – 2.5 million tons

Estimated Packaging Disposal in CA,  
by Material Type





# **The California Landscape: Infrastructure** (2013 estimates)

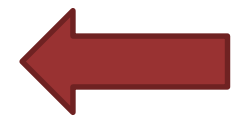
- 130 active, permitted landfills
- ≈850 MRF, C&D, and Secondary Processing Facilities
- ≈350 Composting, Chip & Grind, and Organics Management Facilities
- 3 Transformation Facilities



# The California Landscape: Existing Policies

Reporting Year: 2012 (jurisdiction self-reported data)

Recycling Program Type	# of CA Jurisdictions	% of CA Jurisdictions
Curbside Residential	386	93%
Single Stream/Commingled		
Curbside Residential	334	80%
Commercial on-site pick-up	333	80%
Source Separated		
Curbside Residential	88	21%
Commercial on-site pick-up	186	45%
Disposal Bans (packaging-related)	0	0%
Variable can rate/quantity-based user fee (PAYT)	207	50%





# Proposed Definition & Scope

**Definition:** All products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, and presentation of goods to the consumer.

**Scope:** all packaging placed on the California market and all packaging waste, whether it is used or disposed at industrial, commercial, office, retail, household, or any other level, regardless of the material used.



# Priority Packaging Product Selection

- 75% goal will require a comprehensive scope of material and product types
- Attempted to identify those packaging products/categories that should be included *at a minimum* in efforts to meet the 75% goal
- Analysis is *one approach* to identify priority packaging products



# Priority Packaging Product Selection

- Material types: paper, glass, metal, plastic, wood
- Primary criteria: significant portion of disposal stream
- Secondary criteria
  - Increasing or steady usage trend
  - GHG impacts
  - Water quality impacts
  - Opportunities exist for new efforts





# Priority Packaging Product Selection Results:

- Uncoated corrugated cardboard
- Aseptic containers and cartons
- Other misc. paper
- Plastic containers (e.g., PVC, LDPE, PP, PS, EPR, or mixed resins)
- Degradable plastics
- Pouches
- Plastic films



# Policy Approaches Under Consideration

- Mandatory – CalRecycle’s *preferred approach*
- Voluntary with threshold to pursue a mandatory approach



# Mandatory Initiatives

## Can provide/ensure:

- Consistency & predictability to stakeholders
- Specified timelines
- Enforceable goals
- Level playing field

## Limitations:

- Require statutory authority
- Not necessarily easy to modify once in statute



# Mandatory Initiatives

Examples include:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Landfill bans on recyclables
- Minimum recycled content





*Mandatory Initiatives, cont'd...*

# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- **Producers:** design, finance, and implement statewide program for packaging sold into CA
- **CalRecycle:** set goals, approve stewardship plans & annual reports, maintain level playing field through enforcement



*Mandatory Initiatives, cont'd...*

# Landfill ban on recyclables

- A set of defined products are prohibited from landfill in CA



*Mandatory Initiatives, cont'd...*

# Minimum recycled content

- A specified product/product category sold into CA must contain a minimum amount of post-consumer material



# Voluntary Initiatives (large-scale)

## Can provide:

- Valuable collaboration among stakeholders (e.g., research, partnerships, projects)

## Limitations:

- Long-term commitments can be unpredictable
- Adequate, consistent financing for recovery?





# **Voluntary activities with threshold to pursue mandatory initiatives**

- Build upon existing voluntary initiatives
- Commit CA-specific resources
- Develop shared goals and metrics
- Threshold based on specified goals acts as trigger to pursue mandatory activities



# Large Group Discussion: Proposed Definition and Scope

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# Large Group Discussion: Proposed Definition & Scope:

- *What are the significant opportunities and challenges associated with each?*
- *Suggested alternative approaches, selection criteria, etc. and what is the rationale for the suggestion(s)?*



## Small Group

# Discussion: Potential Policy Approaches

- *What would need to happen for the approach to be successful? Who needs to be engaged?*
- *How does the approach impact/complement existing CA programs?*
- *What are some possible undesirable unintended consequences of the approach and how might these be mitigated?*
- *What key considerations are missing for each approach?*





# Lunch

**12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

*The workshop will resume after lunch  
with a large group general discussion.*



# Large Group General Discussion

Remote participants, please use  
[CoastalRm@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:CoastalRm@calepa.ca.gov) to share  
comments and questions.  
We will check e-mail periodically.



Thank you for participating!